

H.R. 2217. An act making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-2581. A communication from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Office of Educational Research and Improvement, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Notice of Final Priority: American Indian and Alaska Native Education Research Grant Program" received on June 20, 2001; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-2582. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Solicitation for Proposals: To Promote the Use of Market Based Mechanisms to Address Environmental Issues" received on June 21, 2001; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2583. A communication from the Chief Executive Officer of the Federal Loan Bank of Chicago, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the system of internal accounting and financial controls for 2000; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2584. A communication from the Clerk of the United States Court of Federal Claims, transmitting, the Report of the Review Panel relative to S. Res. 129, 105th Congress., 1st Session referred S. 1168; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2585. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Guidance on Filing an Application for a Tentative Carryback Adjustment in a Consolidated Return Context" (RIN1545-AY58) received on June 21, 2001; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2586. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Aggregate Stock Ownership Rules" (RIN1545-AY80) received on June 18, 2001; to the Committee on Finance.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-111. A resolution adopted by the Board of Directors of the Colorado River Water Users Association relative to the nomination for the position of Assistant Secretary of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

POM-112. A petition presented by the Council on Administrative Rights entitled "Full Circle"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

POM-113. A petition presented by the State of Maryland General Assembly relative to Senate Bill 85; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-114. A petition presented by a Member of the General Assembly of the State of Missouri relative to energy; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

POM-115. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Maine relative to Medicare supplement insurance policies; to the Committee on Finance.

JOINT RESOLUTION

Whereas, prescription drugs provide essential treatment to all our citizens in this country; and

Whereas, retail expenditures on prescription drugs in most states have approximately doubled over the past 6 years; and

Whereas, citizens in the United States often pay the highest prices in the world for prescription drugs, and due to these excessive prescription drug prices, access to such prescription drugs is often unobtainable to certain people confronting serious illnesses; and

Whereas, federal rules currently regulate uniform Medicare supplement insurance policies that are available for sale to people eligible for Medicare coverage; and

Whereas, coverage for prescription drugs through the federally regulated Medicare supplement insurance uniform A-J policies is very limited; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That, We, your Memorialists, request that the United States Congress make a change to federal rules and regulations to allow the development of Medicare supplement insurance policies offering greater prescription drug coverage than is currently available; and be it further

Resolved, That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States, to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States and to each Member of the Maine Congressional Delegation.

POM-116. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Pennsylvania relative to domestic violence; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE RESOLUTION

Whereas, Between 2 and 4 million women each year are victims of domestic violence nationally; and

Whereas, At least 800,000 Pennsylvanians are victims of domestic violence each year; and

Whereas, Domestic violence is a health care problem of epidemic proportions; and

Whereas, Medical professionals have a unique opportunity to intervene in domestic violence as they are often the first resource a battered victim seeks for help; and

Whereas, Health care providers can be a critical link to safety by offering support, information, education, resources and follow-up services to patients who are identified as victims of domestic violence; and

Whereas, Approximately only 10% of primary care physicians across the nation routinely screen for partner abuse when a patient is not currently injured; and

Whereas, The General Assembly recognized the importance of screening patients for symptoms of domestic violence in enacting Act 115 of 1998, which established the Domestic Health Care Response Program; and

Whereas, Act 115 of 1998 made Pennsylvania the first state in the nation to establish patient screening and advocacy programs in hospitals and health care systems; and

Whereas, The Family Violence Prevention Fund recognized Pennsylvania as the only state to receive an "A" grade for laws regarding health care response to domestic violence; and

Whereas, A team from Pennsylvania has joined teams from 14 other states and tribes and the Family Violence Prevention Fund to

create innovative and sustainable health care responses to domestic violence on a national level through the National Health Care Standards Campaign; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania recognize June 12, 2001, as "National Domestic Violence Health Care Standards Campaign Kick-Off Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate encourage Pennsylvanians and health care professionals in this Commonwealth to learn more about the causes, signs, prevention and treatment for domestic violence; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate urge the Congress of the United States to recognize the "National Domestic Violence Health Care Standards Campaign and to promote the screening of patients for domestic violence by health care professionals across the nation; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.

POM-117. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Pennsylvania relative to water pollution; to the Committee on Appropriations.

SENATE RESOLUTION

Whereas, The biggest water pollution problem facing the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania today is polluted water draining from abandoned coal mines; and

Whereas, More than half the streams that do not meet water quality standards in this Commonwealth are affected by mine drainage; and

Whereas, This Commonwealth has more than 250,000 acres of abandoned mine lands, refuse banks and old mine shafts in 45 of the 67 counties, more than any other state in the nation; and

Whereas, The Department of Environmental Protection estimates it will cost more than \$15 billion to reclaim and restore abandoned mine lands; and

Whereas, The Commonwealth now receives about \$20 million a year from the Federal Government to do reclamation projects; and

Whereas, There is now a \$1.5 billion balance in the Federal Abandoned Mine Reclamation Trust Fund that is set aside by law to take care of pollution and safety problems caused by old coal mines; and

Whereas, Pennsylvania is the fourth largest coal-producing state in the nation, and coal operators contribute significantly to the fund by paying a special fee for each ton of coal they mine; and

Whereas, The Department of Environmental Protection and 39 county conservation districts through the Western and Eastern Pennsylvania Coalitions for Abandoned Mine Reclamation have worked as partners to improve the effectiveness of mine reclamation programs; and

Whereas, Pennsylvania is not seeking to rely on the Federal appropriation to solve the abandoned mine lands problem in this Commonwealth and has enacted the Growing Greener program which has provided additional money for mine reclamation activities; and

Whereas, Pennsylvania has been working with the Interstate Mining Compact Commission, the National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs and other states to free more of these funds to clean up abandoned mine lands; and

Whereas, Making more funds available to states for abandoned mine reclamation should preserve the interest revenues now being made available for the United Mine Workers Combined Benefit Fund; and

Whereas, The Federal Office of Surface Mining, the United States Environmental